



The Ryoichi Sasakawa
Young Leaders Fellowship Fund



Sasakawa Young leaders Fellowship Fund (SYLFF) University of Nairobi Chapter

Peace Forum

**“Understanding the Push and Pull Factors Underlying Violent Extremism
and Radicalization Among the Youth in East Africa”**

Jacinta Mwende, Majune Socrates, Steve Muthusi and Alexina Marucha

Held at Arziki Restaurant and Conference Center, Chiromo Campus University of Nairobi,
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Lastly, the report is based on presentations by Partick Maluki (PhD), Bruno Kaimwa (PhD), Barbra Natifu, Debarl Inea and Hassan Kinyua (PhD). We are particularly grateful for the comments of all participants of the Peace Forum.



The Ryoichi Sasakawa Young Leaders Fellowship Fund (Sylff)

Sylff, the Ryoichi Sasakawa Young Leaders Fellowship Fund, was established in 1987 to support graduate students in fields falling within the parameters of the social sciences, humanities, and the performing arts. Endowments worth \$1 million have so far been provided to 69 universities and consortia in 44 countries. These endowments are invested to produce revenue for the provision of fellowships at each institution. Fellowships are awarded to graduate students selected by each endowed institution. These “Sylff fellows” are selected not only for their academic achievements but for their potential as future leaders. Since the launch of the Sylff program, more than 15,000 Sylff fellows have received fellowships. The Sylff Program is a collaborative initiative of The Nippon Foundation (the donor of endowments) and the Tokyo Foundation (the program administrator).

The vision of the founder of Sylff, Ryoichi Sasakawa is a world where all mankind are brothers and sisters and all have the right to fulfill their basic needs for food, health care and education.

The mission of Sylff is to support the education of outstanding students pursuing graduate level studies in the social sciences and humanities with high potential for leadership and commitment to exercising leadership in local, national, regional and international affairs, in public as well as in private endeavors. To nurture future leaders who will transcend geopolitical, religious, ethnic, cultural and other boundaries and will contribute to peace and the well-being of humankind.

The Sylff Program is an outgrowth of the vision of the late Ryoichi Sasakawa, the founding chairman of Nippon Foundation and a philanthropist. To contribute to the fulfillment of the vision and mission of Sylff by establishing endowments at selected institutions of higher learning throughout the world, a scheme ensures a sustainable source of fellowships in perpetuity.



Background of the Sylff University of Nairobi Peace Forum

This Peace Forum was seized under the Sylff Leadership Initiatives (SLI) Program. SLI is a Support Program whose aim is to support Sylff fellows wishing to undertake social action projects or to organize a conference/workshop addressing social issues. It is on this basis that four University of Nairobi Sylff fellows; Dr. Jacinta Mwendu, Mr. Majune Socrates, Mr. Steve Muthusi and Ms. Alexina Marucha, conceptualized the idea of a Peace Forum with a focus on Violent Extremism. It is important to note that Sylff Program has been in operation at the University of Nairobi since 1989.

The theme of the Peace Forum was “Understanding the ‘Push’ and ‘Pull’ Factors Underlying Violent Extremism and Radicalization among the Youth in East Africa”. Violent extremism is increasingly the subject of both scholarly and policy debates across the globe and poses a security threat in East Africa and the world at large. As a result, governments have applied force to combat the problem but it has remained immune and is rising. It is on this premise that this Forum sought to bring together participants from Africa to discuss this East African as well as global challenge and explore ways of effectively addressing violent extremism.

Objectives of the Forum

- Establish personal drivers for youth to engage in violent extremism in East Africa
- Document experiences or activities of violent extremism in East Africa
- Propose non-violent measures of curbing violent extremism
- Revive Sasakawa University of Nairobi Chapter
- Strengthen bonds of Sasakawa Fellows in Africa



Presenters and Facilitators

Prof. Bruno Kaimwa Maneno

Bruno Kaimwa is a Professor at “Institut National du Bâtiment et Travaux Publics” high engineer school of Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo where he teaches Public services. He holds a PhD in International and Intercultural Studies, a Masters in Public Policy, governance and local growth from the University of Deusto in Bilbao, Spain (Sylff fellow 2006-2008) and a B.A in International Relations from the University of Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo.

He has participated in several peace-building forums in Democratic Republic of Congo where he also worked at the electoral independent commission in 2005-2006. He is the co-founder and President of DLESA “Décentralisation, Développement Local pour l’Equilibre Social en Afrique” NGO. His research interests are focused on public policies, decentralization, local governance in globalization context, traditional institutions, local development as well as local growth.



Dr. Hassan Kinyua Omari

Hassan Kinyua Omari holds a PhD in Religious Studies, an M.A in Religious Studies and a B.A in Arabic Language and Religious Studies, all from the University of Nairobi. He also holds a Post Graduate Diploma in Islamic Banking and Insurance from the Institute of Islamic Banking and Insurance in the United Kingdom. He is currently a Lecturer of religious Studies at the University of Nairobi but he is also affiliated to a number of academic institutions: St. Paul’s University, Kenyatta University and Tangaza University. He is also affiliated to the Supreme Council of Kenya Muslim (SUP-KEM) and Peace League Africa.



Barbra Natifu

Barbra is an Independent Public Relations and Communications Researcher and Consultant based in Kampala, Uganda. Her research interests include: PR History, identity, branding, reputation and issues management. She has published a number of book chapters and journal articles on the same themes. Her most recent articles can be found in the Asia Pacific Public Relations Journal and the Journal of Organizational Ethnography.

She is currently working on her doctoral degree in identity management studies and holds an MPhil Media Studies degree from University of Oslo and a Bachelor of Mass Communication degree from Makerere University. She has worked for local and international organizations assisting them meet their specific communication strategy development, implementation and evaluation needs in the areas of health, communication, legal communication and advocacy, corporate social responsibility (CSR), identity, issues and reputation management.

Dr. Patrick Maluki

Patrick Maluki holds a PhD in Peace and Conflict Studies from Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology, a Masters degree in Politics from Jawarhalal Nehru University, India and a Bachelors Degree in Education from Moi University. He is an experienced trainer and researcher in International Negotiation, Mediation, human rights and governance and peace building issues.

He is currently a Lecturer at the Institute of Diplomacy and International Studies, University of Nairobi and has carried out academic research in a number of areas. In 2012, he was part of a University of Nairobi team which carried out a baseline survey on the status of human rights in Kenya and in 2013 he also carried out a research on the gender dimension of international terrorism.





Debarl Inea

Debarl Inea is a Journalist with one of the leading television broadcasting stations in East Africa, NTV Kenya. He co-hosts the Am-Live, a morning breakfast show, every week day.

Day One

Introduction

Mr. Steve Muthusi opened the introduction session by requesting participants to introduce themselves. The participants present represented different youth organizations, academic institutions and Sasakawa fellows. The Government of Kenya was also represented at the forum. Among organizations represented was The Sophie Muwanika Institute of Art for Change (Uganda), International Youth Action Against Terrorism (IYAAT) (Kenya), Peace Ambassadors Integration Organization (PAMBIO) and Africa Talent and Change Foundation which organized the Garissa commemoration Marathon as a means to unite people. University of Nairobi officials also graced the event included Mr. Joseph Gachunga, Registrar Board of Postgraduate Studies, Prof. Lydia Njenga, Director Board of Postgraduate Studies and Deputy Vice Chancellor Academic Affairs, Prof. Henry Mutoro. Tokyo Foundation officials present were Ms. Yoko Kaburagi, Director of Leadership Development and Ms. Aya Oyamada, Program Officer.

Opening Remarks

Official Opening by a University of Nairobi Representative

Prof. Henry Mutoro gave opening remarks on behalf of the Vice Chancellor of the University of Nairobi, Prof. Peter Mbithi, to officially launch the Forum. He began by recounting his own experience of the effects of violent extremism in Kenya. Having managed the process of receiving bodies of students massacred in the Garissa University, he expressed what a heart wrenching experience it was at the University's Chiromo mortuary. He said witnessing the loss of so many young lives was disheartening. The university has since instituted a common course on cohesion taken by all students. Prof. Mutoro then delivered Prof. Mbithi's speech.

Video Message from Mr. Yohei Sasakawa

Mr. Socrates launched the video remarking that he has been getting questions from people interested to find out what the Ryoichi Sasakawa Young Leaders Fellowship Fund (Sylff) and Nippon Foundation were. The video he said would answer some of such questions. The video featured Yohei Sasakawa, the Chairman of Nippon Foundation whose remarks were focused on the work of the Nippon foundation. Nippon Foundation he said seeks to nurture young leaders who can address both local and global issues from a broad perspective. It supports capacity building for youth around the globe. He noted that he was delighted to hear the forum brings together Sylff fellows from different Universities and different fields.

Speech by Yoko Kaburagi, Director Leadership Development, Tokyo Foundation

Ms. Kaburagi began her speech by congratulating organizers of the forum, Dr. Jacinta Mwendu Maweu, Mr. Socrates Kraido Majune, Mr. Stephen Muthusi Katembu, and Ms. Alexina Nyaboke Marucha. She shared her experience living in Kenya for two years; she asserted that young Kenyans taught her to see things from a broad perspective. She noted that the young generation represents hope for the future of humanity. Today, however young people are drawn to violent extremism due to a variety of social and economic factors. She explained that the Forum seeks to address this alarming development; radicalization and violent extremism. She further elaborated on the workings of Sylff such it being a global program involving 69 universities in 44 countries. Over its 30-year history since being launched in 1987, Sylff has supported 15,000 students around the world. The Sylff program at the University of Nairobi was initiated in 1989. Once students become Sylff fellows, they can continue receiving support even after their fellowship period. One example is the Sylff Leadership Initiatives award, or SLI, which supports



social action projects or forums undertaken by fellows to address important social issues. Tokyo Foundation she further noted is the administrator of Sylff funds whose goal is to nurture young leaders who will transcend ethnic and national backgrounds. Once one becomes a fellow, they have access to lifelong support; Sylff Leadership Initiatives (SLI) funds projects undertaken by fellows to address social issues in their countries. It is a competitive process that picks which fellow's proposals are funded.

She acknowledged that the forum brought together Sylff fellows from Uganda, South Africa and Kenya. "We value our network; one person isn't always enough to solve problems." This Forum embodies the SYLFF mission; addressing a social issue and using Sylff's global network to tap into the skills and experience of fellows around the world.

Presentations

Political and Economic Perspectives to Radicalization - Dr. Patrick Maluki

Dr. Maluki started his presentation by pointing out that there has been a long search of what the concept of radicalization means. Who is a radicalized person? A radicalized person is mostly resented as a victim. They are not complicit of their own changes in political and social views but rather external forces are responsible. In existing literature, a radicalized person is one who is tricked, swayed, seduced into taking a radical perspective. Stopping radicalization is becoming crucial for governments he noted. Radicalization is not a self-taken decision that is why there's need to address push and pull factors. Radicalization is ordered, planned and executed as part of a scheme. We operate in a lucrative environment such that radicalization has become an option. Radicalized individuals may use of non-violent pressure and coercion. Various forms of political violence results from radicalization.

Radicalization is the process by which the group adopts extreme political or religious ideals. They believe change is necessary and that the only way to achieve their goal is to use violence.

He explained that it may be possible to identify a radicalized person through a checklist. He went through a checklist the French have come up with which he cautioned may not be applicable in all contexts. The following are traits to indicate a person may be radicalized according to the French

- Stops listening to music
- Going to the cinema
- Change eating habits
- Change in dressing
- Severs relations with old friends
- Rejects members of their own family
- He reiterated that different societies have different signs applicable in identifying radicalization in individuals. Dr. Maluki then went on to discuss the Five Paths To Radicalization
- Majority of the radicalized individuals come from conservative societies. Young Muslim men in Europe perceived to be marginalized are in the category of homegrown radicalizations
- Social contacts and networks; peer social network and internet has influenced radicalization. The desire to effect societal and political change is present in the radicalized, this desire is so profound
- Abject poverty and unemployment
- Corruption in public institution is a factor favoring radicalization
- Anarchy and lack of rule of law; if aggrieved people have no platform to address their grievances they are likely to resort to violence. Failure

of the legal system therefore catalyzes radicalization

- Marginalization of communities due to religious and ethnic affiliation resulting in denial of political access results in radical groups gaining a platform to influence aggrieved people from those marginalized community. Victimization of Muslim; ruthless response by security forces to terror attacks including profiling by security forces aggravates the situation

All these factors make it easy for radical groups; triggers to violence are political events, and disrespect to religious norms.

Mr. Shogonya, a Burundian, added that selective application of the law fuels radicalization. He cited an incident where he was travelling out of Kakuma refugee camp with a fellow refugee who was of Somali nationality. Both of them showed their movement passes to police as per the norm but he was allowed to proceed with his journey while his Somali counterpart was not allowed to proceed and was in fact asked to justify his movement pass. He also attributed inequality of all forms including social inequality and inequality of natural resources distribution to the rise of radicalization. He also noted that poor community based approach in addressing radicalization as well as poor leadership and governance catalyzes radicalization among youth.

How Radicalization Takes Place

When people face transgression, they are likely to become outraged due to extreme pain inflicted on them for instance through military action.

- Radicalization requires a social structure; a group for their goals to be achieved.
- Communicating; email, influencing people
- Recruitment
- Need for action
- Required action comes from a group leader

Political Drivers of Radicalization

Denial of basic political rights and civil liberties catalyzes radicalization; that is why democracy is important in the fight against extremism. When people are denied their rights, the greater the risk and vulnerability to recruitment by extremist groups. In addition, harsh and brutal rule where violations by the military or police including torture is prevalent; the need to avenge some of the tortured or killed motivates youth to become radicalized

- Corruption facilitates radicalization. Governance is crucial in the fight against radicalization
- Presence of poorly governed or ungoverned spaces where government presence is weak is a push factor of radicalization
- Protracted, violent local armed conflicts
- Presence of illegitimate government
- The global inequality between the "haves and have not's", creating a division of "we & they"

Radicalization as Opposition Politics

Radicalization is motivated by:

- Nationalist and religious motive
- Personal motives
- Revenge

Dr. Maluki emphasized that we can't just locate radicalization on one issue; religious or economic deprivation, it is driven by multiple factors. He also delved into the issue of what terrorism is. He traced the origin of terrorism to the French revolution, you can say the French revolution was terrorism, World Wars was also terrorism. He also sought to demystify opinion and fact when it came to defining terrorism. "We need to be aware of international public opinion that seeks to paint one religion as associated with terrorism". Radicalization can occur in any society he underscored. International public opinion which he termed the "CNN factor" is biased; the western idea of bashing Islam. History is clear on where terrorism started. The struggle between the West and the Middle East has skewed facts. The easiest way to defeat your enemy is to brand them a terrorist". He noted the role of perception when it comes to the concept of terrorism; "one man's liberator is another's terrorist". Forms of political violence can be termed radicalization; Hamas was categorized as a terrorist group but took power and became government in Palestine. Supporters of Donald Trump were so extreme in a polarization way; they were radicalized. Dr. Maluki noted that Goal 16 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that calls for a just peaceful and inclusive societies; will provide solutions. Violence and terrorism have common denominators.

Plenary

The Moderator, Mr. Steve Muthusi posed the question: What are the signs in your area to identify that either someone is radicalized or is in the process of being radicalized? Different participants responded to this question as follows:

- Mr. Abdi from Somaliland; In Islam when you see someone misinterpret the Quran
- When a young person is growing beard; Mr. Halkano Boru, a participant from Northern Kenya, Isiolo County, explained that when a young person suddenly starts keeping a beard he is perceived to be in the process of being radicalized.

Mr. Ponge from Kenya and a Sylff Fellow posed a question; He observed that the French checklist seemed to be describing the Sunni sect of Muslims who are conservative even in sportswear, their dressing is unique, men done trousers termed "don't touch my shoe" – calf length trousers. He sought the presenters' comments on his observation also inquiring whether violent extremism and radicalization is a preserve of a specific religion since the answers given by participants point to one, religion. Is it possible to have Christians become radicalized as well? Why are Northern Ireland extremists not called terrorist? Mr. Ponge questioned.

Mr. Ponge further shared his experience with how misconceptions on radicalization are counterproductive to addressing this problem. He explained that he had evaluated a US anti-radicalization program implemented in Eastleigh targeting Somalis, he noted that his findings from the evaluation got the targeting wrong; they had wrongly targeted young Somali men whereas it is youth from Majengo particularly new converts who are more vulnerable to radicalization.

Ms. Rashida from Uganda contributed to the discussion. "We need to choose our words carefully; media paints Muslims as terrorists." She emphasized the role of culture; even within culture there is extremism, one cannot interact with others because of a feeling of being better than others. If we don't address the role of culture we can't really address the problem of terrorism. Culture is another layer besides religion". She shared her experience in Botswana where people walked out of a table after she did not accept an offer of wine and identified herself as a Muslim. She thought they were extreme.

Barbara from Uganda and also a Sylff Fellow, posed a question to Dr. Maluki how fear and threat in the society is placed in the terrorist objective.

Dr. Maluki responded by stating that terrorism thrives on threat and intimidation as the main tactic of terrorists is to cause fear. "Media is the oxygen of terrorists" and motive is what differentiates whether an act is criminal or terrorist.

Mr. Timothy Kimaiyo asked Dr. Maluki to comment on Donald Trump's threat to shutting down the internet. Dr. Maluki said that one cannot shut down social media; internet is very beneficial in many ways, however dealing with syndicated parts of the internet may be possible through policy to enhance surveillance and target content creators.

Ms. Xena from South Africa inquired whether radicalization can ever be positive. South Africa's huge inequalities exist despite it being a democratic society, incidents of student riots against an unjust and unequal system has consequently gone up. Student riots have been described as radical. Where do we draw the line when it comes to just causes?

Dr. Maluki responding to Ms. Xena, outlined the challenge with liberation movements such as the Mau Mau and Kenya's second liberation movement; that when they achieve their goals they may cross the lines. Intolerance is the hall mark of divergence from "positive radicalization" if it can be termed that way. A just revolution could correct evils in society but doesn't revenge. Retributive justice however is a line that determines whether a certain case of radicalization is positive. Vengeance for perceived injustice is how genocide happened in Rwanda. The rationale of International Humanitarian Law is centered on the principle of proportionality; not doing more harm than is necessary to disarm an enemy. For instance professional armies take prisoners of war in accordance with this principle.

Radicalization in the case of South Africa comes as a result of alienation and denial of access to economic rights and the right to education for the majority. "Positive radicalization" will reach its end when people achieve their objective but the challenge is that communities go overboard. Justification for war is to stop opponent from harming you. Radicalization can be described as positive if it creates justice and doesn't go beyond that. Dr. Maluki's presentation and bio can be found using this link: <https://drive.google.com/a/students.usiu.ac.ke/file/d/0BwSahXqmtO-TYUx5dUdhYjhNTnNESn-lzOG1YRIRLVDRIMDY0/view?usp=sharing>

Violence and Radicalization in the East of Democratic Republic Of Congo - Prof. Bruno Kaimwa

Prof Kaimwa began by displaying a map of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and pointing out the areas in Eastern DRC affected by violence. He asserted that the implication of more actors in armed groups is a pull factor to violence. He noted that the context of violence in Eastern DRC is such that the victim today is the killer tomorrow; a cyclic conflict that is protracted.

Actors in this violence are both local and trans-border armed groups including Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR) from Rwanda, Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) from Uganda and National Liberation Front (FLN) from Burundi. In the last two years approximately 700 persons were killed in Beni. Perpetrators of this violence he noted were Ugandans, Congolese, Tanzanians and Somali citizens. There is also an emerging class of new actors in Eastern Congo that are connected to Islamist groups.

Child Soldiers Phenomenon(Pull factor)

Between 1996 and 2006, armed groups forcefully conscripted children to their ranks. Reintegration of children who have been in armed groups is not easy. Unsuccessfulreintegration of such children back in to the society means the young people live either as civilians or combatants as and when convenient for them.

The implication of conscription of children in conflict is that it isa pathway to radicalization. The lifestyle of child soldiers accords them status and respect.Lack of employment and education ranks high as drivers of conscription into violent groups.Armed children have the power to extort people or do as they please, as such the community accords them respect for self -preservation. This benefit encourages more children to join armed groups as most are deprived of basic needs such as food and do not have a family, the gun gives them access to food and other things through coercion. “Once a child is conscripted they know no other lifestyle, the gun becomes their mother and father” Prof. Bruno emphasized.

Governance of Armed Resources, Armed Trafficking and Poverty (Push Factor)

Gold and Coltan found in the DRC are anirresistible lure for mafia gangs of youth. When youth realize violence can achieve an end they join armed groups. Violence and radicalization is further facilitated by ease of access to arms. The African Union report The Preventable Genocide notes that flow of illicit arms is the biggest driver of armed conflict on the continent.

How to Stop Violence and Radicalization in Eastern Congo

Prof. Kaimwa noted the following as solutions to radicalization:

- Reinforcing peace education
- National and local leadership promoting non-violence attitude with them gaining skills on conflict negotiation. Use of peace language and `action will reinforce peace
- Promote natural resource governance which ensures equity in distribution of resource benefits
- Sustainable and global peace process in the Great Lakes region (Rwanda, Burundi, Uganda, DRC, South Sudan) is key to stopping violence `in Eastern Congo
- Stopping the inclusion of children in armed conflict

Mr. Shogonya posed the question; how can East Africa states who are also involved in the DRC conflict prevent the access of weapons by violent extremists? He also pointed to the ethnicity problem in Burundi where Hutu and Tutsi have not coexisted peacefully. He asserted that the problem of ethnicity has not been resolved even in seemingly stable countries. “When you ask about ethnicity in Rwanda, you are jailed.” He then remarked that governments have to adjust policies to promote coexistence, the African Union ought to have policies covering manufacturing of weapons. Mr. Shogonya also advocated for a community based approach to addressing radicalization. He said stakeholders promoting peace should engage the community more so the majority who are youth so that they feel they have a stake and that government does not belong to specific people. Policy and approaches governments use to tackle extremism has often isolated communities rather than work with them he posited.

He also shared a peace approach he utilizes in Kakuma refugee camp in Kenya. Alternative to violence movement, he explained it brings together Tutsi and Hutu to share with each other what they perceive to be negative and positive of each other. On concluding the process the positive aspects shared about each other by the two ethnic group members outweighed the negative. Such open dialogue and engagement he believes can solve ethnīc

hatred and radicalization.He argued that governments focus on urban areas; marginalized and remote areas are not targeted. He cited the example of when people leave Kakuma and they say “we are going to Kenya”. He also noted that even though policies promoting peace are at times clear at government level, implementation is often not done.

Prof Kaimwa moved on to elaborate his point on the crucial role of education in countering radicalization and violence. He advocated for continuous learning; peace processes shouldn’t end after part of the problem is solved because peace is not a short term process but continuous. The moderator opened up the discussion session posing the question: Can youth choose peace despite the pull and push factors? Prof Kaimwa contributed to this session by remarking that the DRC government is not concerned about the conflict; regional governments involved in the Congo conflict could not also be expected to solve it since they are complicit.

Ms. Mwikamba shared her perspective of radicalization; “even tribalism is radicalism, when we view each other as enemies this is extremism that manifests in violence.” In elections youth are mobilized as campaigners but are left stranded when their candidate with many promises does not get into office. The youth become frustrated are vulnerable to become radicalized and be mobilized to unleash violence. “Youth should be given meaningful opportunities to grow. There is no way to tell a young person to choose peace when they are not employed and cannot earn a living.” she argued.

Institutions, norms and values can be brought in by religious institutions to solve the problems of child soldiers a participant added. Mr. Abdirashid from Somaliland highlighted the role of the relationship between parents and children in countering radicalization. Parents need to support and counsel their children as a way to prevent radicalization. The parents ought to teach children the proper religious values to seal loopholes extremists use to lure youth on religious basis. “We must create equality”, he added, in DRC only elites benefit from resources. Resource sharing and employment creation is a means to ensure stability. Children join Al Shabaab as employment whereby they get paid \$150 per month, they also join for their security he explained. Al Shabaab controls a lot of territory in Somalia, children and youth join for self-preservation, if they don’t they are viewed by Al Shabaab as their enemies and may be targeted. They join also for revenge; to protests against violations by government soldiers against their families.

Ms. Xena reinforcing peace through education; a course on peace should be put inthecurriculum from very early stages to drill the message of peace in individuals. Ms. Miriam suggested that (Kenyan) our curriculum should be holistic such that it inculcates values, caters for diverse careers and encourages innovation and creativity rather than just focus on white collar jobs which aren’t enough in many developing countries. Investmentin vocational training is crucial;“everyone is thinking of a white collar job, no one wants to go back to wielding” she lamented. Mr. Abdiaziiz from Garissa, Northern Kenya outlined the concept of peace ambassadorship through which young people in Africa can be seen as source of hope. National Commission on Integration and Cohesion (NCIC) is pushing for amani(peace) clubs in schools; so children are taught of cohesion. Giving amnesty to child soldiers he proposed as another means to counter radicalization; government of Kenya gave amnesty to Al Shabaab recruits which encouraged many youth to opt out of radical groups he pointed out.International advocacy programs;INGOs like ford foundation should implement disarmament programs for youth giving them a means of income in place of putting down their guns. Peace education and entrepreneurship education he agreed is crucial to removing guns in the hands of youth.

The moderator sought to agree with Mr. Abdiaziiz on the role parents’ play, he used an analogy to underscore this point saying “a child is like water,

it takes the shape of whatever surrounds it.” He reiterated the important role of the family and society in shaping children and youth positively. Mr. Steve Muthusi disagreed commenting that disarmament is a core mandate of the government; if governments cannot do it other organization can’t either.

Ms. Rashida from Uganda had a unique perspective; “Until we change the system we can’t change anything”. She proceeded to do a system mapping activity on the white board outlining institutions and actors that make up systems which according to her have failed facilitating the rise of radicalism. Her proposal on countering radicalization centered on building up new systems. One of her core ideas was on building a network of young peace builders; “why we haven’t made change is because everyone is doing their own little things” she noted. “Know who is doing what to address the problem, map the system, find other change makers. Address the small systems; peers, families, etc. think of alternative systems to beat the failed systems.” she rallied.

Ms. Barbara agreed that if the system doesn’t work its alternatives should be created. International armed conflict in Congo through which Uganda has stolen gold and timber from Congo demonstrates systems failure. Consequently the nation; ordinary Ugandans are being called upon to pay for the crime of the state. The justice system has failed the participant posited.

Ms. Xena from South Africa proposed anti-bullying program such as the one implemented in South Africa where children are taught resistance skills; to be strong enough in their values not to resort to violence but sort their issues amicably. She also recommended non-violent communication; use of peace language such that people convince instead of compelling each other. She agreed with the viability of the concept of peace ambassadors; she pointed out that while think tanks are good, we need to find ways of getting solutions that are workable; grassroots solutions. High level discussions should be tailored to address problems from a grassroots perspective. Peace clubs where children are taught alternatives to violence and become peace ambassadors can go great lengths in promoting peace she asserted. SYLFF Nairobi Ambassadors could be launched from this forum she highlighted; “there is immense potential to implement such projects being proposed.”

Ms. Sennane, who was also a Slyff fund beneficiary, talked of an initiative she undertook; holding a discussion with youth in the village which marked the start of other projects she did in her villages. She sponsored talking walls; important messages were put up on walls, in addition she also facilitated supply seeds to farmers. She sought to differ on the idea of replacing failed systems. “We can make systems work; Rwanda utilized its Gacaca courts and through its one cow per household they are overcoming poverty”. Bringing people in the fold; including people has makes them less prone to violence she observed from her villages; she has since set up a long term project; Makuyu Development Forum. She noted that with international justice systems such as the International Criminal Court (ICC); the justice systems are not as accessible to people. Local justice initiatives should be considered to ensure sustainable peace.

Mr. Halkano Boru from Isiolo noted that anti radicalization measures need to involve mothers in countering violent extremism. Mothers are often close to their children and would notice change in behavior that may indicate radicalization, as such they are crucial in ending radicalization of youth.

Ms. Natifu concurred that systems can be made to work but that “for systems to work, we should have competent, people with goodwill and people ready to implement.” We have enough systems in Africa; systems are there what we need are people who have energy and positivity to deliver. People

in the village follow cue by their leaders, hence changed should be modeled by leaders. Actors in the system should own the system to make it effective. The participant proposed that those present at the forum identify county initiatives to be up scaled.

Ms. Barbara agreed that most of the formal systems are not working and are marred by corruption and lack of trust by citizens. She suggested an alternative system to be considered; cultural systems. She asserted that people have faith in cultural systems, people have more trust in ethnic leaders and therefore cultural institutions should be a viable alternative to failed systems. She suggested that alternative systems should be built in a way that takes an interdisciplinary approach.

Prof. Bruno’s presentation and bio can be found using this link: <https://drive.google.com/a/students.usiu.ac.ke/file/d/0BwSahXqmtO-TRGtMTH-VuSjJOTIR1aGp4eW5vNHdPZC01SFNR/view?usp=sharing>

“Historical Injustices and Violent Extremism; A Case Study of Uganda” - Ms. Barbra Natifu

Ms. Natifu presented her academic paper: Historical Injustice and Violent Extremism: A Case Study of Issues Management in Uganda prior to the 1972 Asian Expulsion. The main objectives of the paper were:

- i. Tracing core issues leading to the Asian expulsion.
- ii. Tracing issue management process that actors employed.
- iii. Examining the actions (communicative and strategic) that (both colonial and Local Ugandan political actors) used in managing the Asian-African issues, before it escalated into expulsion.

Since 1895 when Uganda became a British protectorate and Asians arrived in Uganda, an unjust and unequal system prevailed; Asians who were a minority in Uganda controlled the economy. Grievances by Africans were on issues such as fair wages. She emphasized that the way an issue is framed or addressed determines whether it will be solved or become protracted. Whenever issues are not addressed appropriately problems reoccur, such is the case of Uganda where unresolved historical injustices became protracted.

When strategic decisions are taken to address an issue, word / terms used are very important Ugandanization and Africanization.

Her research questions were:

- iv. What were the core /underlying issues that precipitated the Asian expulsion of 1972?
- v. What issue management processes did actors follow in managing the Asian-African issues?
- vi. To what extent did actors employ communicative or strategic actions in managing Asian-African issues before they escalated into the expulsion crisis of 1972?
- vii. What scholarly and practical lessons can be drawn from this case study?

Ms. Natifu traced the Asian expulsion of 1972 to unjust policies by the British. Asians were brought to Uganda to construct the Uganda railway. The British instituted unjust policies deliberately crafted to keep Africans out of the market place. Asians were the middlemen in the implementation of this disenfranchising colonial policy. The Asians were favored by colonials while Africans were denied their economic rights. Despite comprising 0.1% of the population, by 1925, the Asian community controlled 74.4% of the business economy while the African only controlled 2.4%, of the 145

cotton ginneries in Uganda, 100 were Indian-owned (Parson, 1973, p.62) .Such substantive economic inequality led to tensions between Africans and Asians. In addition social stratification and class division according to races; i.e. Africans, Europeans, Asians had different schools, hospitals even social amenities, a factor that aggravated the tensions.

Ms. Barbara Natifu explained the two types of actions that may be employed by actors in management of contested social issues. The communicative action emphasizes dialogue and mutual understanding in “negotiating definitions of the situation which admit consensus.” (Habermas, 1984, p.86)

The strategic action is goal oriented and its purpose is to achieve one’s own goal or strategic intent (Habermas, 198, p.86) African peasants expressed their dissatisfaction with the unequal and unjust system through strikes and resistance. In 1918, African cotton growers went on strike demanding fair minimum price for African cash crop growers. In 1945 and 1949 violent peasant uprising and workers strike took place. In 1959 there was a boycott of Asian goods. The colonial government attempted to solve the situation in 1922 after the 1918 growers strike. The British resolved that growers should be protected from unfavorable prices by middlemen.The 1945 uprising in Buganda was sparked off by the failure to effect the recommendation to allow Africans to gin their own cotton and process their coffee.

“The Africans...refused to sell their cotton to the Asian middleman traders, who at that time owned virtually all the ginneries and coffee processing plants. The Asians felt done in and so turned to the chiefs to try and force the African farmers to sell their crops or else face prosecution. Many farmers in the villages were arrested, charged with inciting civil disobedience and punished in one form or other. Some were fined, others were imprisoned. “There was general discontentment in the population, notes (Kiyingi, 2004, p.62)

African issues were not resolved by colonials; this led to resistance by African peasants, use of force by Asians was a strategic decision aimed at achieving their own goals and not reaching a consensus; a move that was counterproductive.In 1949, a violent uprising was witnessed in Buganda. Peasants had petitioned the King of Buganda to allow free trade and direct sale of produce outside Uganda, urgent facilitation of Africans to gin their own cotton and freedom to choose their own leaders(democratization demands). The King did not address the demands which prompted frustrated farmers to resort to acts of violence, setting fire to Asian homes and those belonging to African Chiefs who collaborated with them. Barbara noted that the use of violence was a response to pent up anger and frustration.

In 1952 the colonial government came up with the Africanization policy which was intended to address historical injustices through affirmative action for Africans. The colonial government compulsorily acquired Asian ginneries and transferred them to African cooperatives. This policy did not succeed; by mid 1960s Asian bourgeoisie lobbied for it to become Ugandanization policy. This policy diverted from affirmative action to those who suffered historical injustices to all Ugandan citizens of which Asians were. Beneficiaries of these policies were certain Africans; in addition the status quo of racial segregation remained in place. President Milton Obote appointed an Asian to oversee the import-export council, a move perceived to reinforce the status quo.General Idi Amin, on the other hand, reacted as a “common man” interested in the immediate redress of felt grievances with a simple and “obvious” solution (Parson, 1973, p.66). Idi Amin took communicative action; dialogue through Conferences and Memorandum (held Dec 8th 1971 and Jan 4th 1972). These dialogues did not yield desired results hence Idi Amin taking the strategic decision of issuing a decree for Asians to leave Uganda and sanctioning use of force to achieve this goal.

Lessons from the Asian Crisis of 1972

Ms. Natifu concluded that the following can be derived from the case study of Asian expulsion in Uganda:

1. Relevance of historical approach to understanding issues and violence in society.
2. There is need to study the past to make sense of the present.
3. Unresolved historical injustices can escalate into violence. Resolving Socio-Political and Economic issues is key to peaceful co-existence of a diverse of races.
4. Necessity of correcting historical wrongs by enacting corrective policy actions.
5. Societal leaders need to scan, identify, prioritize and above all judiciously act on issues that may escalate into violence if left unaddressed.
6. Injustices and illegitimate use of power of any form or manner have a tendency to lead to violence. Avoid them at an individual, group or societal level.
7. Opt for dialogue, collaboration and harmony before resorting to violence.
8. Importance of evaluating actions taken. Actors need to carefully study the effectiveness of both communicative and strategic actions to avoid expedient and detrimental actions.
9. Continuously monitor interpretive frames of terms when implementing strategic policy actions.
10. Use of force to attain a strategic goal undermines the communicative goal of harmony and long term peaceful existence and collaboration.
11. Judicious strategic actions are central to issues management.

Barbra’s presentation and bio can be found using this link:

<https://drive.google.com/a/students.usiu.ac.ke/file/d/0BwSahXqmtO-TcEhBRWlfRFJmZnVfWVRNNGk0MldCc1dnc3lr/view?usp=sharing>

Day two

Introduction

The moderator took participants through an activity; he distributed balloons and sharp sticks. He then asked participants to inflate the balloon and get the stick through the balloon without the balloon become deflated or bursting. Some participants said it was impossible, others said they didn't know how yet several tried the task and had their balloons burst. At last one person managed to successfully to put the stick through the balloon without it bursting, the moderator demonstrated how it was done explaining that one needed to find the lowest pressure point to put the stick through. He further explained that the balloon activity is an analogy for how sensitive and huge issues such as radicalization and violent extremism ought to be approached from the least volatile angle.

Day two of the Forum was graced by Prof. Seth McLigeyo, Deputy Director Board of Postgraduate Studies, who gave the closing remarks. Also in attendance was Tokyo Foundation officials, Ms. Yoko Kaburagi, Director of Leadership Development and Ms. Aya Oyamada, Program Officer.

Presentations

Media, Terrorism and Youth Radicalization—Mr. Debarl Inea

Mr. Debarl Inea, a Journalist with NTV Kenya, begun on an inspirational note saying that such Peace Forums are important; no effort was too little to make change. He referred to Prof. Wangari Maathai's analogy of the hummingbird; a little bird who made a difference despite her small effort. He with NTV Kenya explained that he launched Standing on Guard; a series on his morning show because he felt a conversation about security was not happening in the country. The media was reactionary throughout all attacks witnessed in the country. It was accusatory; often focused on who was not doing their work resulting in lapses that facilitate terror attacks.

Mr. Debarl displayed a photo of a terrorist known as Jihadi John whose photo was widely shared on social media. He posed the questions as to who he was. Do we know what he used to do? After participants made several guesses, Mr. Debarl noted that he was an IT guru. He made the point that radical groups use the best minds to spew radical ideologies over all sorts of media; the ideologues are prominent Sheikhs. Jihadi John was a well learned man, where does he fall when it comes to push and pull factor? Why did Islamic state choose him? He said that the Garris terror attack mastermind was a Law student whose father was a prominent figure. Young girls were found trying to leave the United Kingdom through Turkey to join ISIS. Mr. Inea underscored that poverty may not necessarily be a push factor in radicalization as demonstrated by these examples.

Ms. Rashida spoke of the power of stories; the media she said created opinions in the minds of people through their reports. On the video featuring Jihadi John who claims their terror acts is a religious mission, Rashida emphasized that the Qur'an is clear and that there is no such thing. She gave the example of extremism in Uganda where someone convinced people to lock themselves up in a church and burn themselves. She questioned how the human mind is wired, to her even when truth is clear some people can still be misled. Debarl quickly responded quoting Karl Max that religion is the opium of the masses; people can easily be convinced when things are labeled religious.

Mr. Bolatito from Nigeria noted that there exists a lot of misconception; the radical sheikhs are using outdated Qur'an verses that are no longer applicable to justify their radical views.

Mr. Debarl further probed the participants to share what they thought of the video. He then asked people to think of why the terrorists in the video use beheading instead of shooting, he also pointed out to the participants to take note of the quality of the video.

Mr. Abdiaziz refuted the perception that Islam advocates for violence. He posited that even animals have rights in Islam that is why Muslims do humane slaughtering; the knife to slaughter an animal has to be sharp and not blunt so as to spare the animal unnecessary pain. He emphasized that Islam was against violent extremism and brutality. Muslims are around 1 billion in the world; if indeed Islam advocates for terrorism why didn't it start earlier.

Mr. Debarl unpacked the video; he said extremist groups use professionals who are very well qualified. Ponge noted that new converts are easily swayed and that extremists are using religion to spew hatred. He noted that extremist videos can be convincing but the counter narrative isn't strong enough. It is estimated that extremist groups churn out 100,000 tweets per minute, why can the counter force produce more than that? He asked.

Ms. Nicera shared her experience, having interacted with returnees from Somalia, who went to join Al Shabaab in Somalia and were trained but opted out "I can tell you for sure terrorism isn't about Islam" she posited.

By taking the war to the digital space the extremists reach more people. Commendably there exists some effort to counter radicalization done through the online space. Imam online a United Kingdom website is one such initiative, Hakika digital magazine is another initiative with the aim to reclaim the online space from extremists. Debarl however lamented that "we don't have apologists in Kenya who come out and say that what is happening is wrong; Hank Hanigraph is one of the finest apologists, Zakariya from Oxford is an apologists who will reason with you not necessarily quoting religious texts" he noted. He said that in his observation no Muslim apologists exist in Kenya.

He also delved in to the debate on when the word terrorism came up? He posited that terrorism begun with Zionism and the crusaders. He posed more questions: "why do we have terrorism? Are we missing something?" Ms. Mwikamba weighed in on the discussion asserting that terrorism can't be fought physically but intellectually. "You cannot fight an idea, that is where we are getting it wrong." She encouraged participants to read a book by Majid Nawaz My Journey Out of Islamic Extremism.

Mr. Debarl noted that from the video one could infer the reason motivating violent extremism is that they believe they have to fight other with different beliefs. They claim to fight "a battle of truth", this he said is a strategy they use to lure others to join them. He also agreed that desire for revenge pushes people to join radical groups; historical injustices are a motivating factor.

While Debarl argued that media did not have a role to play in driving extremism or creating perceptions many participants disagreed. While he asserted that media was simply a conduit of information and that the public form their own opinion, a participant remarked that big media networks like CNN create the impression that terrorism is synonymous with Islam.

Mr. Debarl wrapped up his session by stating that the next battle we will have in the world will be a religious war. He posed the question, how is the curriculum and media prepared? A counter narrative should be created fast. Participants proposed solutions to radicalization and violent extremism

Solutions to Countering Radicalization through Media

- Mr. Bolattito from Nigeria said the whole terrorism phenomenon is a conspiracy theory of the west hence a solution can never be found
- There is struggle for power between the West and Islam. He noted that Tony Blair made a statement in 1999 about Northern Nigeria becoming problematic, that area of Nigeria is now ravaged by violent attacks from the extremist group Boko Haram
- Ms. Rashida suggested that stakeholders need to finance the counter narratives to make it stronger than hate messages spread by extremists
- Apologetics should be explored as an avenue to counter radicalization; communities need to be equipped with enough knowledge and intellect to counter extremist ideology
- Since it is an intellectual war more constructive debates should be organized
- Historical wounds need to be healed; justice and reparations should be provided to victims of violations
- A participant quoted President Obama who said that extremism is “a generation challenge that will require the cooperation between governments”
- Another proposal was to get media to stop giving oxygen of publicity to extremist and spreading fear. Media not take responsibility for feeding into the narrative?
- Policymakers have failed; the counter terrorism strategy has not explained been explained to Kenyans even after media invitation to do so, Debarl noted ; policymakers need to be open about their efforts.

Religion and Radicalization - Dr. Hassan Kinyua

Dr. Kinyua begun his presentation by asking participants to read some Arabic text he projected. Participants made different guesses some saying they don't know what it was. He then explained that “We all fear what we don't know.” He read the Arabic sentence and explained its meaning “ In the name of Allah the most merciful ,the most beneficent.

He also explained an Arabic term he said was widely misconceived; Jihad comes from the Arabic root word jahada which means striving. He said when a person is striving in a good cause for instance to make himself better in something i.e. education he is said to be in jihad. He gave the example of his hectic schedule having decided to take on a degree in law besides his full time job as a lecturer and other commitments including family. He argued that on that basis he calls himself as a Jihadi. He challenged participants of the conference to seek to know more about other religions and generally concepts they are not familiar with as opposed to accepting mainstream perceptions. “The more you know the less you judge” he posited.

Dr. Kinyua asserted that violent extremism is a leading threat globally and that terrorism is not a preserve of one religion.

Factors Influencing Radicalization

He cited the factors influencing radicalization as follows

- Low political participation of youth; People should be given a chance for participation in all spheres of society. He said that he believes that youth are leaders of today and not tomorrow; he observed meaningful youth participation is lacking; many youth organizations are not led by youth but by other people who aren't youth. Due to low political participation youth feel detached from their country since they seemingly do not have a stake.
- He added that he made a proposal to the Ministry of Education to put chaplains in schools; every school should have one to deter delinquency.

- Misrepresentation of Muslims as villains and constant profiling aggravates youth. He gave the example of biased security check where Muslims are thoroughly checked categorically while other faiths aren't subjected to the same treatment. He cited a case where his own brother was detained by police because of mere suspicion related to his Islamic attire.
- The Muslim identity is viewed as highly problematic such that acquiring national identification documents is difficult for Muslims.
- Frustration by government to Islamic organizations; he observed that organizations bearing the term Islam in their name are frustrated in the registration process. While other organizations will get their papers in 3 months, Islamic organizations may take up to three years to get registered.
- There are various negative statements in CVE
- Corruption is a radicalizer. “When corruption goes unaddressed, citizens may conclude that the government exists not to serve but to exploit”
- Possible failure in CVE; response to extremism by authorities may have a possible radicalizing effect among Muslim youth; fighting terrorism should not be seen as fighting Muslims he asserted. “When entire communities are arrested on mere suspicion, it leaves behind a trail of grievances”. There have been reports that police knock on people's doors in South C and Eastleigh areas (where Muslims are majority) at late hours of the night. Privacy of people is invaded when police come into your house at such odd hours, some individuals would want to avenge such violations.
- Misrepresentation of religious texts
- All religious texts have parts which if misinterpreted are catastrophic; that is why we need scholars on religious. In legal interpretation there are rules, similarly with religious texts such rules apply.

Solutions to Radicalization

- Non Violent solutions he asserted should rank high
- Responsibility: all sections of society have responsibility to share in countering violent extremism media for instance should stop reporting extremist attacks live.
- Preventive measures such as early intervention in the radicalization process
- Identify breeding ground and explanatory factors for extremism such as corruption and address such causal factors
- Addressing underlying grievances; the government of Kenya should issue title deeds to all Majengos, majority of Muslim occupied areas he said lacked title deeds.
- Addressing the push and pull factors as opposed to reacting to extremists through punitive measures on whole communities.
- Challenging the twisted narrative; how do authorities understand extremism should be interrogated as a means to find the most effective way to deal with it.

Plenary

Dr. Kinyua responded to the perception that extremism is only a preserve of Islam by citing the case of India where the Hindu extremists were violently persecuting Muslims. In Uhuru Park, a pastor detonated an improvised explosive device in a gathering, yet for some reason he was not labeled an extremist not get high media coverage. He cautioned that extremists are difficult to identify.

A participant proposed that governments should focus on soft approaches to countering radicalization such as promoting education. He quoted the education activist Malala Yousafzai “instead of sending guns send books” as a means to counter extremism.

Ms. Rashida shared her experience of a Christian friend with a beard who was detained and harassed at an American airport. The friend vowed never to go back to America due to the profiling. From this experience Ms. Rashida derived that we need to invite people to talk about their religion as opposed to calling them out; this will break stereotypes and possibly profiling. She also suggested that school chaplains be trained on dialogue so as to ensure their presence is not felt as dictatorial. Dr. Kinyua assured that the chaplains will be vetted by security personnel and trained adequately.

She said that violent extremism affected Muslims more; Muslims are more terrorized in their day to day life” by harassment of authorities and profiling, not everyone has restraint not to say that they will not revenge.”There are so many similarities which we should start focusing on; we should not judge one another. She asked participants to ponder over “what is every one of us doing to promote interreligious understanding.”

Another participant asked Dr. Kinyua on his thoughts regarding the Anti-Terror Police Unit raiding mosques in Mombasa with their shoes on; violating the values of the community in the process of arresting youth in mosques termed radicalization centers for youth. Dr. Kinyua said the security agencies could have dealt with situation better. Government could have deployed intelligence and prevent things from escalating the way they did.

A participant questioned Dr. Kinyua why Muslims don't come out and share what they teach in mosques, she sought to find out why mosques are not accessible to all. Dr. Kinyua responded that the idea of mosques being closed off was simply a misperception, many Christians are now taking Islamic studies and he said that he personally accompanies them to go to the mosque as part of their learning. He said that the only caveat to visiting a mosque was that dressing had to conform to Islamic standards of decency, for instance ladies would need to cover up. The participant sought to find out why she had to dress Islamically to be allowed in. Another participant responded it's simply about respecting community values; understanding one another and respecting one another.”

Dr. Kinyua added that identity and religion are important to people; when you take these from people they will fight back.

Dr. Kinyua's presentation and bio can be found using this link:

<https://drive.google.com/a/students.usiu.ac.ke/file/d/0BwSahXqmtO-TWFpvd2p0U0dhRTl0OG1oVnkNEYUU2RW1CaldF/view?usp=sharing>

Recommendations from the Sylff Nairobi Peace Forum

1. The media should be restricted on what they are allowed to broadcast; media blackout on extremist attacks will kill the morale of terrorists when their heinous acts no longer get optimum publicity.
2. Governments should address inequality of all forms including social inequality and inequality of natural resources distribution.
3. Reinforcing peace education; the education system should play a role in instilling positive values such as peaceful coexistence among people.
4. Governments should use soft approaches; a participant proposed that governments should focus on soft approaches to countering radicalization such as promoting education as ignorance predisposes people to deviant behavior.
5. Addressing underlying grievances including historical injustices, access to land, and reparation for rights violations by security forces.
6. Preventive measures such as early intervention in the radicalization process.
7. Identify breeding ground and explanatory factors for extremism such as corruption and address such causal factors.
8. Challenging the twisted narrative; how do authorities understand extremism should be interrogated as a means to find the most effective way to deal with radicalization.
9. Participants proposed several approaches; a community based approach, an awareness and early intervention approach to countering radicalizations and a Knowledge, Attitude and Perceptions Approach (KAP).
 - a. KAP approach focuses on understanding what knowledge perpetrators have that influences their actions, when their knowledge is for instance on discriminative policies the institutions responsible should be reformed whether police or immigration. Those working to counter violent extremism (CVE) should change their attitude from that of stereotyping. Media can be utilized to change the KAP of all stakeholders, religious leaders should be facilitated to CVE through media.
 - b. A community based approach ensures youth have self-representation, concerned people from the ground level should be met with and engaged. The community is then mobilized to support CVE; this approach is inclusive, responsive (meets needs and rights of communities concerned) and contemplative (enable monitoring of implementation by community).
10. Parents it was suggested should be more open with students, schools should take on a better role of monitoring student behavior and liaise with parents in due time to correct deviant behavior.
11. A platform for all stakeholders to share best practices should be formed.
12. A community policing approach to prevent radicalization should be taken; nyumba kumi community policing initiative by Government of Kenya should be fast tracked.
13. Governments should facilitate youth access to employment and grants to establish business and create employment for other youth.
14. A school based exchange program to different regions should be instituted to foster cohesion among all citizens.
15. Intercommunity and interfaith dialogues should be facilitated to promote better understanding among people. Through these ` dialogues people will be sensitized on cognitive theory of psychology that asserts that people will always have divergent views and that key to coexistence is tolerance.
16. Entrepreneurship courses and vocational learning opportunities should be instituted in schools; young people should be engaged in co-curricular activities which creates a sense of hope among youth.
17. Develop self-awareness and resilience programs for schools which reduces vulnerability of youth.
18. Art and theatre should be used to sensitize people against radicalization as it penetrates the mind of people more.

19. Religious leaders should be engaged to give youth proper religious guidance from a young age; parents need to monitor that their children are taught the right information.
20. A youth camps for university level should be facilitated; youth will be taught life skills and sensitized against extremism at this camps. Youth from different universities who are trained will be expected to pass on the lessons learnt to other youth.
21. Programs with focus on the boy-child should be considered by all stakeholders as a means to deter radicalization among young men who lack opportunities, mentors and resort to deviance.

Way Forward

1. A Syllf platform should be created to involve all participants present in the forum and hailing from different countries in joint peace initiatives. Participants agreed to do a social media campaign to demystify and educate people on violent extremism and radicalization. A participant welcomed peace articles for his website I Think Africa.
2. Two Participants also resolved to share their peace work under the tag #SyllfPeaceForum as a way to showcase how lessons learnt at the forum influence their work.
3. A suggestion to use alternative to violence program was made particularly for vulnerable youth in slum areas who may not have access to internet. It was also agreed that economic empowerment of youth is a foundation to all peace work, “when someone cannot meet their basic needs, you cannot talk to them about peace”, a participant emphasized.
4. Participants were urged to participate in advocacy on peace related issues.

Sasakawa segment

Introduction

This section is concerned with the fourth and fifth objectives of the Forum; revival of Sasakawa University of Nairobi Chapter and strengthening the bond of Sasakawa Fellows in Africa. This section also outlines lessons learnt that should be taken into account by future Organizers of Forums. The section is concluded by the way forward from the conference.

Revival of Sasakawa University of Nairobi Chapter

There is need to have an active Sasakawa Chapter for the University of Nairobi given that the University of Nairobi is one of the oldest recipients of Sasakawa Fellowship funding (since 1989) and it the only recipient institution besides University of Western Cape in Africa. An active Fellowship will facilitate cohesion among Fellows in Kenya and the rest of Africa besides other benefits that come with an active Chapter. Furthermore, an active Fellowship will ease the working of a yet to be established Global Fellowship Association.

Therefore, a meeting was held on 9th December 2016 to deliberate on this issue of reviving the University of Nairobi Chapter. Minutes of the same are below:

MINUTES FOR SASAKAWA UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI CHAPTER
MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY 9TH DECEMBER 2016 AT ARZIKI RESTAURANTS
AND CONFERENCE CENTER, CHIROMO CAMPUS, UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI, BEGINING AT 13:34

Table 1: Members present

No.	Name	Designation
1.	Yoko Kaburagi	Tokyo Foundation
2.	Aya Oyamada	Tokyo Foundation
3.	Prof. Lydia Njenga	Director, Board of Postgraduate Studies (UON)
4.	Majune Socrates (Chairperson)	Former Fellow (Kenya)
5.	Steve Muthusi	Former Fellow (Kenya)
6.	Alexina Marucha	Former Fellow (Kenya)
7.	Awour Ponge	Former Fellow (Kenya)
8.	Sennane Riungu	Former Fellow (Kenya)
9.	Michael Nzomo	Former Fellow (Kenya)
10.	Barbra Natifu	Former Fellow (From Uganda)
11.	Prof. Bruno Kaimwa	Former Fellow (DRC)
12.	Xena Cupido	Former Fellow (South Africa)
13.	Miriam Viluti	Current Fellow (First Year, University of Nairobi)
14.	Jedidah Mitei	Current Fellow (Second Year, University of Nairobi)
15.	Timothy Kimaiyo (Taking minutes)	Current Fellow (Second Year, University of Nairobi)

Table 2: Members absent with apologies

No.	Name	Designation
1	Mrs. Tolulope Victoria	Former Fellow (Nigeria)
2.	Dr. Jacinta Mwendu	Former Fellow (Kenya)
3.	Mumbi Kinyanjui	Current Fellow (Second Year, University of Nairobi)
4.	Fancy Cherono	Former Fellow (Kenya)

Agenda of the meeting

1. General introduction
2. Members' introduction
3. Bonding and revival of Sasakawa UON Chapter
4. AOB

MIN 1/12/16: General introduction

The meeting was officially opened by Mr. Socrates Majune at 13:34. He elaborated the importance of a Fellowship using the story of John Nash, Nobel Prize Laureate in Economic Sciences (1994). The main message is that a Fellowship is worthy to a basic scholarship.

MIN 2/12/16: Members' introduction

All members present introduced themselves by name, academic and/or professional background, current position(s), affiliation to SYLFF and nationality.

MIN 3/12/16: Bonding and revival of Sasakawa UON Chapter

Being the main agenda of the meeting, the chair asked members present to deliberate and offer their suggestions on the need to bond and revive the UON Sasakawa Chapter.

- i. Mr. Ponge appreciated SYLFF Fellows, SYLFF officials and the BPS officials for the timely call of reviving of the UON Sasakawa Chapter. He noted that the forum will provide an important platform for the interactions among fellows from multidisciplinary perspective. Mr Ponge also sought the clarification from the SYLFF officials on how the UON Sasakawa Chapter and other local Sasakawa Chapters would collaborate with the anticipated Global Fellowship Association. In response, Ms. Yoko explained that the yet to be formed Global Fellowship Association would work together with the local fellow chapters and that the role of the local fellow chapters would not be usurped. In fact, she noted that the two will complement each other.
- ii. Mrs. Riungu applauded the revival of UON Sasakawa Chapter as a brilliant idea that was a very timely. She reminded Fellows that they worked hard to attain the fellowship and that they should be proud of themselves similar to recipients of other fellowships such as full bright fellows.
- iii. Prof. Bruno informed members present that he was enthusiastic and optimistic about the whole idea of reviving the UON Sasakawa Chapter. However, he suggested that the UON Sasakawa Chapter embraces Fellows from other countries in Africa. He cited his case as an example since he comes from the Democratic Republic of Congo.
- iv. Mrs Xena underlined the importance of reviving UON Sasakawa Chapter as it would improve and drive both the connectivity and the dynamism of the entire Sasakawa community. She stressed that the creation of UON Sasakawa Chapter would enhance sharing of information between members from different fields and multi-disciplinary backgrounds. To bolster the idea of connectivity and dynamism, she suggested the creation of a database that will bring together all the SYLFF members. She cited ResearchGate, academia.edu as perfect examples of the website she had in mind. [Task group: SYLFF and BPS to provide this information before March 2016.]
- v. Mrs Barbra reminded members that SYLFF has a global and reputable image and that they should be proud being SYLFF Fellows. She added that being a Fellow was an immense wealth that they need to capitalize on. She offered a number of suggestions to the members present on the importance of reviving the UON Sasakawa Chapter. Firstly, she noted that the revival of UON Sasakawa Chapter would enhance identification of the strength of each Fellow. Noting that SYLFF offers scholarship to several disciplines, the diversity of SYLFF Fellows in itself is a form of strength. Secondly, she noted that the revival of UON Sasakawa Chapter would enhance creation of the peer reviewed works that will go a milestone in improving quality of research and academic works of SYLFF Fellows. This will also link senior and junior Fellows. Thirdly, on appreciating the suggestion made by Ms. Xena on the creation of a website, Ms. Barbra noted that a website would not only offer an interactive platform for SYLFF fellows but members would be able to get to know the profiles of other fellows.

Fourthly, she also suggested the formation of newsletter which will offer crucial information to SYLFF Fellows. [Task group: Sasakawa UON Chapter Officials.] She noted that creation of a newsletter would be relatively easy to be actualized. Lastly, Ms. Barbra asked SYLFF fellows to link up with the Japanese Embassy for bonding and social networking purposes as we are all a one community. [Task group: SYLFF and BPS.]

- vi. Ms. Miriam stated that the revival of UON Sasakawa Chapter would enable current and former SYLFF Fellows to think on how to give back to the SYLFF in as much as continue to receive their scholarship.[Task group: Sasakawa UON Chapter Officials.]
- vii. Mr. Steve reiterated on the need to have an inter-disciplinary research platform through Fellows.
- viii. Ms. Yoko acknowledged and appreciated members' suggestions and reminded them their good suggestions requires much commitment from each member. To start the process and actualize the revival of the UON Sasakawa chapter, the need to elect leaders arose and the following six positions were suggested: Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer, Inter-Organization Liaison and Country representatives.

The members present endorsed and accepted the following individuals to be the office bearers for the positions indicated;

TABLE 3: List of office bearers

No.	Position	Name
General positions		
1.	Chairperson	Majune Socrates
2.	Deputy Chairperson	Dr. Jacinta Mwendu
3.	Secretary	Alexina Marucha
4.	Treasurer	Steve Muthusi
5.	Inter-Organization Liaison	Awour Ponge
Country Representatives		
6.	Uganda	Barbra Natifu
7.	South Africa	Xena Cupido
8.	Democratic Republic of Congo	Prof. Bruno Kaimwa

AOB

- i. Mr. Steve requested SYLFF Fellows to be pro-active in reading and responding to emails from SYLFF officials and that members should be quick to disseminate the messages to other members who might have not received the information. He further noted that SYLFF Fellows should be visiting SYLFF websites to gather information that is always beneficial to members.
- ii. Mr. Socrates elaborated on (i) by noting that members should consider sending articles the SYLFF Voices section on the main SYLFF website.
- iii. Mr. Socrates expressed his reservations of being active before 2018 due to the PhD studies he is undertaking at the University of Dar es Saalam in Tanzania. Therefore, the Deputy Chairperson is expected to play active role before 2018.
- iv. A meeting for all Fellows is to be held in three-month's time.

Adjournment

With no agendas to be discussed, the meeting adjourned at 14:30.

Strengthening the bond of Sasakawa Fellows in Africa

This objective meant to enhance cohesion among Fellows, not only in Kenya but in the whole of Africa. As per the minutes above, it was agreed that country representatives be elected as shown in Table 3 on list of office bearers. It is expected that this list will be increased over time and Fellows from other countries are encouraged to identify themselves.

Lessons Learnt

The main lessons learnt is divided into three main segments:

i. Selection of Participants

This conference had a total of 35 participants as per Annex 2 out of which 14 were competitively selected. The first step was to announce a call for applications whose link was put on the University Nairobi website as follows:<http://www.uonbi.ac.ke/content/call-applications-sylff-conference-violent-extremism-university-nairobi-kenya-fully-funded>. The next step included selection out of which the team reviewed all the 238 applications and communicated to both successful and unsuccessful applicants. In general, this process was successful because selected participants were diverse and knowledgeable about the subject basing on their comments in the Forum.

ii. Transportation

Air transportation requires more care than road transportation. With the availability of funds two months to the conference, Organizers had ample time booking flights for participants. A Travel Agency was contacted to assist in flight logistics thereby easing the work of Organizers. Nevertheless, two participants did not manage to fly to Kenya. One of them was due to failure to meet all the travel requirements at the Airport. Hence, it is critical for both Organizers and Participants to ensure that all travel requirements have been met. The second Participant did not turn up at the Airport. In general, Organizers incurred a fine on the refund by Airlines from the two participants. The best way to avoid the latter case is to have active Country Representatives and successful Participants can be linked to Country Representatives prior to the Forum. This will help vet the credibility of the

Participant. It is also advisable for participants to review their travel ticket keenly to ensure that bookings made are appropriate especially when it involves exchange from one Airport to another.

iii. Accommodation and Venue

The availability of funds facilitated booking of venue of the meeting and accommodation facility two months to the Forum. This also made communication to Participants easy because they had all information prior to the Conference. Nevertheless, all information regarding feedback from Participants on venue of the meeting and accommodation facility has been communicated to the respective Organizations.

Voices

Deliberations of the Forum have already gotten into the media and an article has already been published in Kinshasa medias and connected to African French medias upon interviewing Prof Bruno Kaimwa. The link is as follows: http://www.lepotentielonline.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=15913:cinq-questions-a-bruno-kaimwa-maneno&catid=99:5-questions-a&Itemid=512.

Closing Remarks

Mr. Socrates Majune gave closing remarks as a key convener of the Peace Forum. He expressed gratitude on behalf of organizers to all members present at the forum. He expressed hope that ending of this forum would mark the beginning of a new chapter in the lives of all present as far as violent extremism is concerned. He asked participants to take what they learnt back to their countries, offices and programs they run. He urged participants to be champions of peace in their respective spheres of influence.

He had a special message for his colleagues, Sasakawa Fellows, he urged them to take on the challenge and stand out of the crowd. He referred to John Nash, an Economist who won the Nobel Prize in 1994, who said that Fellowships are given to special people. He reminded Sasakawa fellows that they are special and ought to do unique things. He added that students should, love their teachers. He attributed the coming to fruition of the Peace Forum to a conversation he had with his teacher in 2013, Dr. Jacinta Mwendu, who taught him Ethics at undergraduate level. He thanked the Tokyo Foundation, using the Japanese phrase “Arigato gozaimasu!” to express his immense gratitude for their support. He also expressed gratitude to the administration of the University of Nairobi, his fellow organizers and everyone involved in the forum.



Annexes

Program

Day 1: 8th December, 2016		
Time	Activity	Content
08:00 – 09:00	Arrival/Registration	
09:00 – 09:20	Introduction	General introduction by all participants. Introduction of the programme of the day.
09:20 – 09:35	Opening remarks	Official opening by a top University of Nairobi official.
09:35 – 09:40	Video message	Video message from Mr. Yohei Sasakawa, Chairman, The Nippon Foundation.
09:40 – 09:45	Opening remarks by Sylff	Speech by a Sylff Representative.
09:45 – 10:05	First Speaker - Dr. Patrick Maluki	Political and economic perspectives to radicalization.
10:05 – 10:35	Engagement session	Open discussion directed by the Moderator.
10:35 – 11:00	Tea Break	
11:00 – 11:20	Second Speaker - Prof. Bruno Kaimwa	“Violence and radicalization in the East of Democratic Republic of Congo”
11:20 – 12:30	Engagement session	Open discussion directed by the Moderator.
12:30 – 14:00	Lunch Break	
14:00 – 14:20	Third Speaker - Ms. Barbra Natifu	“Historical injustice and violent extremism. A case study of Uganda”
14:20 – 15:00	Engagement session	Open discussion directed by the Moderator.
15:00 – 16:00	Panel discussion	A panel discussion to deliberate on the discussions of the day. Directed by the Moderator.
16:00 -	Departure	Non-Sylff Fellows (All participants who are not Sasakawa Fellows, Sylff Officials and BPS members).
16:00 – 17:30	Sylff Meeting	Only for Sasakawa Fellows, Sylff Officials and BPS officials. Main agenda is Sylff updates led by Sylff Officials.
17:30 -	Departure	Sasakawa Fellows, Sylff Officials and BPS officials.

Day 2: 9th December, 2016		
Time	Activity	Content
08:00 – 09:00	Arrival	
09:00 – 09:05	Introduction	Introduction of the programme of the day.
09:05 – 09:25	First Speaker - Mr. Debarl Inea	Media and/terrorism/youth radicalization
09:25 – 10:00	Engagement session	Open discussion directed by the Moderator.
10:00 - 10:30	Tea Break	
10:30 – 10:50	Second Speaker - Dr. Hassan Kinyua	Religion and Radicalization
10:50 – 12:00	Engagement session	Open discussion directed by the Moderator.
12:00 – 14:00	Lunch Break	For all non-Sasakawa Fellows
12:00 – 13:00	Lunch Break	Only for Sasakawa Fellows, Sylff Officials and BPS officials.
13:00 – 14:00	Sasakawa meeting	Only for Sasakawa Fellows, Sylff Officials and BPS officials. Main agenda is bonding and reviving the UON Chapter.
14:00 - 16:00	Panel discussion	A panel discussion to deliberate on the discussions of the two days. It also includes recommendations. Directed by Moderator.
16:00 – 16:10	Closing remarks	Sylff representative.
16:10 - 16:15	Closing remarks	BPS representative.
16:15 – 16:25	Closing remarks	An Organizer from Sasakawa UON team.
16:25 – 18:00	Closing dinner	
18:00 -	Departure	



List of participants

Name	Country	Organization
Selected Participants		
Rashida Namulondo Muwanika	Uganda	The Sophie Muwanika Institute of Art for Change.
Abdirashid Ibrahim Abdirahman	Somaliland	Marodijeh International University
Irene George Entwine	Tanzania	Daystar university
Shogonya Kaskile Mnyonge	Burundi	ODWEP
Aina-Obe Shamsuddin Bolatito	Sudan	Sudan University of Science and Technology
Mwikamba Verity	Kenya	Lequipe and Security
Nicera Wanjiru Kimani	Kenya	Young Women Initiative Network
Keriako Paul Lemerian	Kenya	Administrator, Office of the President.
Nandi James Madahana	Kenya	Ministry of Interior and Coordination of National Government & Peace Ambassadors Integration Organization (PAMBIO)
Mohammed Alibashir	Kenya	Youth for Democracy, Peace and Development (YDPD)
Abdiaziz Mohamed Khalif	Kenya	Africa talent and change Foundation
Halkano Boru	Kenya	MEP
Cherono Valarie	Kenya	Moi University
Ogolla Khanali Ruth	Kenya	International Youth Action Against Terrorism (IYAAT).
Sylff Fellows – Former		
Sennane Riungu	Kenya	Australian High Commission
Awuor Ponge	Kenya	African Policy Centre (APC)
Xena Cupido	South Africa	Academic Development Lecturer(FUNDANI CHED)
Barbra Natifu	Uganda	UNICEF communication consultant
Prof. Bruno Kaimwa	DRC	Professor in Kinshasa
Sylff Fellow – Current		
Kimaiyo Timothy	Kenya	M.A Economics (2nd Year)
Mumbi Kinyanjui	Kenya	Second Year
Jedidah Mitei	Kenya	Second Year
Michael Nzomo	Kenya	Second Year
Miriam Viluti	Kenya	First Year

Organizers		
Majune Kraido Socrates	Kenya	PhD student (University of Nairobi)
Dr. Jacinta Mwendu	Kenya	Lecturer (University of Nairobi)
Alexina Marucha	Kenya	Completed Masters in 2016
Steve Muthusi	Kenya	Completing Masters
Rapporteur, Graphic Designer and Photographer		
Amina Ahmed	Kenya	Rapporteur
Nick Ngatia	Kenya	Independent designer
Chrisphine Omondi	Kenya	Picha Optics - Photography
Board of Postgraduate studies		
Prof. Lydia Njenga	Kenya	BPS, Director
Prof. McLigeyo Seth	Kenya	Deputy Director, BPS
Joseph Kamau Gachunga	Kenya	BPS, Registrar
Sylff Officials		
Yoko Kaburagi	Japan	Director, Leadership Development
Aya Oyamada	Japan	Program Officer





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Q & A session



**Break time
Photo session**



Presentations



Sidelines



Plenary session





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